

Appln. No. 10/760,035
Filing Date: January 16, 2004
Reply to Office action mailed November 15, 2007
Amendment dated December 17, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 22-77 are pending in the Application and were subject to a restriction requirement in the Office action mailed November 15, 2007. Claims 39-53 and 60-77 are cancelled by this amendment, without prejudice. Claims 1, 17, 22, 24 and 25 are independent claims. Claims 2-16, 18-21, and 23 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1, 17 and 22.

Restriction Requirement

The Office action mailed November 15, 2007 sets forth a restriction requirement upon claims 22-77 under 35 U.S.C. §121, grouping claims 22-38 and 54-59 into "Invention I", and claims 39-53 and 60-77 into "Invention II". Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. Notwithstanding, Applicants elect the claims grouped by the Office into "Invention I" (claims 22-38 and 54-59) for further examination in the Application. Applicants have cancelled the claims grouped by the Office into "Invention II" (claims 39-53 and 60-77), without prejudice, and hereby expressly reserve the right to re-file cancelled claims 39-53 and 60-77 in a later-filed continuation or divisional application.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe that all of pending claims 22-38 and 54-59 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early Office Action on the merits and allowance of claims 22-38 and 54-59 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this submission to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

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Should the Examiner disagree or have any questions regarding this submission, the Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (312) 775-8000 to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 17, 2007

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